

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCCT-01 SY-05 OPR-02 A-01

AID-05 EB-07 DHA-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 /084 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7736

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA 40

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

ACONGEN CALCUTTA 2999

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 3968

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, BG, SA, SU, XX

SUBJ: COUP IN BANGLADESH: SITUATION REPORT NO. 6

REF: DACCA 3957

1. DACCA REMAINED CALM OVER NIGHT OF AUGUST 16-17. ALTHOUGH MILITARY ARE CONTINUING PATROLS IN PARTS OF CITY, CLEAREST SIGN THAT SITUATION FULLY UNDER CONTROL WAS DECISION TO LIFT CURFEW FROM 0600 TO 1800 TODAY (AUGUST 17). FOR FIRST TIME SINCE COUP, CITY HAS ITS NORMAL AIR AND ACTIVITY. AMERICAN COMMUNITY REMAINS SAFE AND UNDISTRUBED.

2. NEW GOVERNMENT BEGINNING CONCERTED EFFORTS TO OBTAIN RECOGNITION. WE HAVE RECEIVED CIRCULAR NOTE DESCRIBING
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ITS ADHERENCE TO GENERAL PRINCIPLES GOVERNING CONDUCT

OF RELATIONS BETWEEN NATIONS (REPORTED SEPTEL). NEW REGIME CLEARLY HEARTENED BY DECISIONS OF SAUDI ARABIA AND SUDAN ACCORD RECOGNITION, WHICH ANNOUNCED ON BANGLADESH RADIO THIS MORNING.

3. IN LIGHT OF CALM NOW PREVAILING, NEW REGIME IS GIVING ATTENTION TO ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

A) PRESIDENT MUSHTAQUE AHMED HAS MADE ASSIGNMENTS OF PORTFOLIOS. MINISTER WILL HOLD PORTFOLIOS IN THEIR CHARGE ON AUGUST 14. WHERE THERE IS NO INCUMBENT, PRESIDENT WILL HOLD PORTFOLIO FOR TIME BEING. RE TWO NEW STATE MINISTERS, THEY WILL BE ASSIGNED RESPONSIBILITIES SHORTLEY.

B) CIVIL SERVANTS HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE IN POSTS THEY HELD ON AUGUST 14. (WE ARE TOLD THAT SHEIKH MUJIB'S REDISTRICTING AND GUBERNATORIAL SCHEMES HAVE BEEN SCRAPPED AND OLD SYSTEM WILL CONTINUE. THIS AWAITS CONFIRMATION BUT SOUNDS CREDIBLE.)

C) NEW REGIME HAS AUTHORIZED RESUMPTION OF DOMESTIC TRANSPORT -- LAND, WATER AND AIR -- AS OF TODAY. A SPECIAL CALL HAS BEEN MADE TO INLAND WATER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY STAFF, STRESSING NEED TO INSURE FLOW OF FOODGRAINS.

4. BODY OF SHEIKH MUJIB (AND ONE SOURCE SAYS OTHER, UNSPECIFIED MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY) WAS TAKEN TO HIS ANCESTRAL VILLAGE FOR BURIAL. LATE PRESIDENT IS BECOMING NON-PERSON, HOWEVER. HIS PICTURE, PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED EVERYWHERE, IS BEING REMOVED AND THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS RECALLING ALL NEWS-REELS AND DOCUMENTARY FILMS ISSUED UNDER "SECOND REVOLUTION".

5. AN JUST TO PROVE THAT THE CHANGEOVER IS COMPLETE, MAULANA ABDUL HAMID BHASHANI, THE NONAGENARIAN PEASANT LEADER, PUTATIVE LEFTIST AND GADFLY OF BANGLEE POLITICS HAS CONGRATULATED THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND OFFERED IT HIS SUPPORT.

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